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From: Peters Ohana [mailto:malnoaton@aol.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, July 10, 2012 11:34 AM  
Subject: Council Meeting Testimony - Bill 11

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HONOLULU, HAWAII

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Bill 11. As a life-long resident of Kailua, I support Bill 11 simply because of the negative impact commercial activities are having on our town, especially our beaches and parks over the years which has increased significantly in recent years and has reached the tipping point for us as residents leading up to this Bill. I am grateful for the tourists from out of State and visitors from other parts of our island and State who bring business and support the economic vitality of our town. I am not anti-tourism at all. I further understand that people want to and deserve to enjoy our beautiful beaches and I don't blame them.

My concern however, is with regard to the bus loads of tourists, and large groups of kayakers and other groups being dropped off by the dozens at a time which has gotten out of hand so much that we as residents cannot enjoy and take advantage of the beaches, parks and town in which we live and pay taxes. Our facilities (bathrooms), roadway infrastructure (traffic), parking lots, etc. do not have capacity to accommodate this volume of people and activity. Our precious environment is suffering...taking a beating due to the constant flow of people throughout the day kayaking to the offshore islands - the Mokulua (Twin islands) and Popoia (Flat Island), a supposed State Seabird Sanctuary. Our average day at the beach is filled with action and the sounds of sirens as the commercialism continues to drain our City resources (fire, police, ambulance, etc.) who are constantly busy with ocean rescues (majority being tourist) as these commercial kayak companies do not hesitate to send people out during unsafe conditions, appearing to be more concerned about business and the bottom line. Our shopping centers, restaurants are booming with bus loads being dropped off with maps. Again...good for business....bad for local residents who no longer desire to "tackle" the hustle and bustle to grab a bite to eat in Kailua town - crowds and long lines - just what you want to deal with on your average day. Again - having no commercial activity like this at least on the weekends when most residents are not working and want to enjoy our town, shopping, restaurants, beaches, etc. with our families would be a relief.

We love the tourists who come find us on their own. This is what has kept Kailua so special all of these years with tourists and visitors alike wanting to return. If this commercialism continues it will just be another crowded town on the map.

Enough is enough. We are not...and don't ever want to be another Waikiki - we couldn't't be even if we wanted to as we simply don't have the capacity to move in that direction. We are at our maximum tipping point! Please support Bill 11...the time has come. Mahalo.

Malia Peters